



King County

Ron Sims

King County Executive

Department of Transportation

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Metro Transit canola-based biodiesel fact sheet

- King County Metro Transit has made a commitment to purchase 2 million gallons of biodiesel made from Washington-grown canola seeds. Previous biodiesel purchases by Metro were from the product of soy crops grown in other states.
- The 2 million gallons of biodiesel will be blended with 8 million gallons of Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel to produce a B20 blend for use in Metro diesel-powered buses. This will result in nearly a year's supply of B20 for Metro.
- Metro has a total of 1,350 buses in its fleet. There are 159 trolleys that run exclusively on electricity supplied by overhead wires. There are 214 hybrid buses that run on both diesel and electricity generated from the bus motor. And, there are approximately 1,000 buses using B20.
- Metro expects delivery of the first shipment of canola-based biodiesel by the end of this month.
- Metro anticipates paying \$2.30 per gallon for the canola-based biodiesel. That is about 6 cents more a gallon than the current price of soy-based biodiesel. The ongoing cost of the fuel will be tied to market prices.
- The state of Washington considers canola-based biodiesel to be a cleaner-burning fuel with more energy output than soy-based biodiesel.
- The purchase of the canola crop grown in Yakima County completes a waste-to-resources loop that starts and ends in King County:
 - Biosolids, a by-product of the sewage-treatment process at King County's wastewater treatment plants, are sent to farmers to be used as fertilizer.
 - Some of those biosolids are used to grow canola crops in Yakima County.
 - The canola seeds are sold to Natural Selection Farms for crushing into canola oil.
 - The oil is purchased by Seattle Biodiesel (Imperium) and refined into biodiesel.
 - Metro purchases the B20 blend from Associated Petroleum Products to fuel its diesel-powered buses.
- Metro's use of biodiesel is expected to remove an estimated 22,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide from the air, or the equivalent of removing 2,800 vehicles from King County roadways. More than 6,628 trees would have to be planted to offset the same amount of carbon dioxide that's being eliminated through this use of biodiesel.

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